



INDIANAPOLIS

Sister Cities International

Connecting Communities for Peace and Prosperity
Winning Entry for the Young Artist Showcase

2015 Annual Report

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By the Numbers

8
Sister Cities

49
Programs &
Events

83
Community
Partners

10
Sister City
Committees

346
Volunteers



"The Sister Cities program is an important resource...in letting the people themselves give expression of their common desire for friendship, goodwill and cooperation for a better world for all."

— Dwight D. Eisenhower, Founder of Sister Cities International

I am a Citizen Diplomat, are you?

Citizen diplomacy is the concept that the individual has the right, even the responsibility, to help shape U.S. foreign relations "one handshake at a time." Citizen diplomats can be students, teachers, athletes, artists, business people, humanitarians, adventurers or tourists. They are motivated by a responsibility to engage with the rest of the world in a meaningful, mutually beneficial dialogue.

The international exchange organizations People to People International and Sister Cities International were established as a result of a historic gathering when President Dwight Eisenhower convened the White House Summit on Citizen Diplomacy on September 11th, 1956.



www.indy.gov/globalindy



global@indy.gov



www.facebook.com/globalindy

From Mayor Ballard



Friends,

Today, Indianapolis is alive with a rich cultural energy that is helping our city grow. This energy and our growth are because of the outstanding work that has been done over the last eight years. Work that many of you helped move forward.

Today, nearly 9% of Indianapolis's residents were born outside of the United States. We are attracting new residents to our city and further building its reputation as a global city that's a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

Indianapolis is known as a racing city around the world, but we're also gaining a reputation for the many cultural festivals held throughout the year that celebrate the diversity within our city. Did you know we also host more than 70 other international and cultural festivals throughout the year? The Sister Cities Fest draws thousands of attendees to Georgia Street in September for a cultural festival celebrating Indy's sister cities in Taiwan, Germany, Italy, Slovenia, China, Brazil, England and India.

Our first sister city was established in 1978 with Taipei, Taiwan. Much has been realized since that year in creating great cultural experiences across Indianapolis's landscape. The Indy Sister Cities program provides an opportunity for residents to engage and promote cultural diversity and learn more about the world. I encourage you to continue volunteering with Sister Cities and attend the many cultural events hosted each year as a way to continue building on our success in promoting cultural diversity and understanding, all while building our reputation as a global city.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gregory A. Ballard". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Gregory A. Ballard
Mayor of Indianapolis





From the Director

Greetings,

The Indy Sister Cities program helps promote Indianapolis as a global city by advancing cultural understanding, developing global connections, strengthening international partnerships and supporting business development.

Indy Sister Cities is always seeking community partners who are committed to increasing cultural understanding and diversity in Indianapolis. This year, Sister Cities International in D.C. formed an alliance partnership with Kiwanis International who happens to be headquartered in Indianapolis.

In July, Indianapolis Sister Cities received the national Innovation in Arts & Culture award at the Sister Cities International 59th Annual Conference in Minneapolis.

In 2015, we hosted more than 49 programs with the help of 346 volunteers and 83 community partners. The annual Sister Cities Fest welcomed thousands of attendees to celebrate the culture, food and music of our sister cities.

Why is the Indy Sister Cities program important? For the simple reason that it makes Indy a better place to live by bringing the world to your neighborhood so you can experience it through cultural programs, ethnic restaurants and neighbors from around the world.

We invite you to get involved with this award winning program!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jane Gehlhausen".

Jane Gehlhausen
Director, International & Cultural Affairs



Receiving the national Innovation in Arts & Culture award (L to R) Una Hartzell-Baird (Indy Sister Cities Fest co-chair), Jane Gehlhausen with President and CEO of Sister Cities International Mary Kane



2015-2016 Sister Cities International, Board of Directors

OUR SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE PRESIDENTS



Taipei, Taiwan
Est. 1978
Dr. Chao-Hung Lee



Cologne, Germany
Est. 1988
Martin Baier



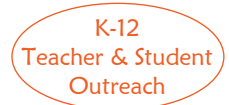
Monza, Italy
Est. 1994
Paola Santini



Piran, Slovenia
Est. 2001
Josef Laposa



**Teacher and Student
Outreach Committee**
Est. 2012
Susan Tomlinson



Hangzhou, China
Est. 2008
Sherry Dong



Campinas, Brazil
Est. 2009
Moacir Feldenheimer



**Northamptonshire
County, UK**
Est. 2009
Jeff Kitchen



Hyderabad, India
Est. 2010
Raju Chinthala



**Sister Cities Fest
Committee Co-Chair**
Est. 2012
Jane Gehlhausen



SCC President's honored in the community

We are fortunate to have talented individuals in leadership positions of the Indy Sister Cities program. Several leaders were recognized for their contributions to our community.

**Raju Chinthala, President of
the Hyderabad SCC receives
Sagamore of the Wabash**



Raju Chinthala, President of the Hyderabad SCC, receives the Sagamore of the Wabash award from Governor Pence (Presenting is Diego Morales)

**Hangzhou, China SCC
President
Sherry Dong recognized**



Sherry Dong, President of the Hangzhou, China SCC, receives the "Champion in Community Service" award at the International Marketplace Coalition, on April 8, 2015, for her dedication and visionary leadership for the Sister Cities program.



Indy Sister Cities Fest



4500 attendees

80+ entertainers

26 sponsors



A Cultural Street Fair Promoting a Global Indy

Kiwanis International Conference hosted in Indianapolis



L: Mary Kane, CEO of Sister Cities International, Stan Soderstrom, CEO of Kiwanis International and Jane Gehlhausen. R: MOU signing with Sister Cities and Kiwanis.



Taiwan, Germany & India, key countries for Kiwanis were featured by Indy SCCs exhibits.



Sister Cities participates at the International Festival organized by the Nationalities Council



The Nationalities Council of Indiana hosted their 40th International Festival November 5 – 7th. Indy Sister Cities exhibited at the event promoting citizen diplomacy and globalization. The Citizen Diplomat Oath was given to many attendees.



OATH: "I (Name) have an opportunity and responsibility to improve world relations. I am a Citizen Diplomat appointed by Mayor Ballard's Office of International & Cultural Affairs and the Indy Sister Cities program. I am committed to do this for my city, my country and my world."



Indianapolis Sister Cities Celebration

November 30th, 2015 Basile Opera Center

Recognizing Our Amazing Volunteers



Jane Gehlhausen, Sandy Brown, Ramu Chinthala, Fran Colley, Kendra Thomas, Lia Morris, Bill Petrovic, Larry Grider, Raquel Ward, and Mayor Ballard. Not pictured: William Engle, Helen Chen Paluszewski, & Joanna Sanders

Our Outstanding Community Partners



Outstanding Community Partner Award
received by Yvonne Perkins



INDY ELEVEN

Outstanding Community Partner Award
received by Indy Eleven staff



Indianapolis Sister Cities Celebration

November 30th, 2015 Basile Opera Center



Volunteer of the Year
Lia Morris, Taipei, Taiwan SCC



Excellence in Programming
1st Place: Cologne SCC, Bach meets Baker
2nd Place: Taipei SCC, Heart of Taiwan: Connected Through Dance



Youth Summit Scholars
Tial Rem
Perry Meridian High School

Kanfing Camara
Ben Davis High School



A significant accomplishment this year was archiving the history of Indy Sister Cities starting when it began in 1978. The history on why each sister city was established is now available, along with the original memos of understanding signed with the cities, many program documents and photos are also catalogued. The website is www.digitalindy.org



The Indianapolis Public Library Digital Collections

Welcome to Digital Indy, the Indianapolis Public Library's digital collections. The purpose of these collections is to provide access to digital images and recordings of cultural and historical interest to Indianapolis residents as well as students, researchers and others. The Library offers these collections to allow free access to digital versions of increasingly valuable, fragile and hard-to-use originals.

If your organization is interested in contributing to our digital archives, or being included in an inventory reflecting Indianapolis' history, people, events, organizations, and places, please visit the [Community Digitization Project](#) page.

High School Collections

Arlington High School



Arlington High School was among the last three public high schools to open within the Indianapolis Public Schools system. Built in response to the rapid growth of the Indianapolis suburbs on the northeast side,

Other Collections

Indianapolis Sister Cities International



Sister Cities International, created a White House Summit initiated by President Eisenhower, is an organization founded on the principle of citizen diplomacy. Indianapolis Sister Cities International carries this legacy as a champion for peace and prosperity by promoting the program's goal of fostering bonds ... [\(more\)](#)

Indianapolis Sister Cities International

About this collection

www.digitalindy.org



[Enter Collection](#)

Sister Cities International, created at a 1956 White House Summit initiated by President Eisenhower, is an organization founded on the principle of citizen diplomacy. [Indianapolis Sister Cities International](#) carries this legacy as a champion for peace and prosperity by promoting the program's goal of fostering bonds between people from different communities around the world. A sister city relationship is established when the Mayors of the two cities sign a memorandum of understanding. Four Indianapolis Mayors have been involved in the sister cities program helping to promote Indianapolis as a global city and strengthen our ties around the world. The Indianapolis Sister Cities program history is rich and includes accomplishments in education, business, and government, as well as culture and the arts.

This collection is made possible by Friends of the Library through gifts to The Indianapolis Public Library Foundation.

Indy Sister Cities

[Taipei, Taiwan](#)

[Cologne, Germany](#)

[Monza, Italy](#)

[Piran, Slovenia](#)

[Hangzhou, China](#)

[Campinas, Brazil](#)

[Northamptonshire County, UK](#)

[Hyderabad, India](#)

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[Indianapolis Sister Cities International General Materials](#)

[Annual Reports](#)

[TASOC \(Teacher And Student Outreach Committee\)](#)

[Indy Sister Cities Fest](#)

[Awards](#)

[Scarborough, Canada \(Former Indy Sister City\)](#)

[Indianapolis Sister Cities at IndyPL](#)

[Sister Cities International 50th Anniversary Book](#)

[Sister Cities International Website](#)

Youth Summit

Tial Rem (Perry Meridian High School) and Kanfing Camara (Ben Davis High School) won this year's Youth Summit scholarships, a program organized by the Teacher & Student Outreach Committee.

They attended the Sister Cities International Youth Leadership Summit, July 16 – 18, 2015.



"My journey to Minneapolis, MN for the 2015 Sister Cities International Youth Summit was without a doubt the best experience of my life. I was exposed to some of the most brilliant and open minded people." Kanfing Camara

"The overall experience was eye opening. It has helped me to expand my vision and bring my dream closer to reality. My experiences at the 2015 Sister Cities International conference made me realize there is hope in this world and someday, this world will find peace and Sister Cities International will be part of the reason for it." Tial Rem

Young Artist Showcase

Director Jane Gehlhausen presented Jasmyn Bell with a Certificate of Recognition from Mayor Ballard for her award winning entry in the Sister Cities Young Artist Showcase competition. Jasmyn's artwork was submitted into the Sister Cities International art competition in Washington, D.C.

Jasmyn is pictured with her art teacher Troy Judd (L) and principle Michael Akers of Broad Ripple High School.



Showcase Finalists

The theme for 2015 was "Connecting Communities for Peace and Prosperity." Artwork of other finalists are pictured here.





Taipei, Taiwan

Sister City since 1978

Committee President:
Dr. Chao-Hung, Lee

IND to TPE

7611 miles
12249 kilometers



The Taipei SCC hosted two cultural programs, a marching band from Taipei and a cultural group program called Heart of Taiwan Connected Through Dance.





Cologne, Germany

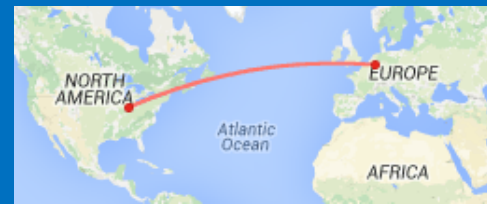
Sister City since 1988

Committee President:
Martin Baier

IND to CGN

4284 miles

6895 kilometers



Left: Klaus Kirchner, a firefighter from Cologne visits Indy for a professional exchange. IFD firefighters Mike Mullennax and Jason Kistler, who went on an exchange to Cologne in the past, supported the program.

Below: Cologne SCC organized a concert named "Bach meets Baker", which highlighted Indiana jazz music by David Baker and classical music from Germany, performed by renowned German cellist Manuel Fischer-Dieskau. The program won 1st place in 2015.



L: A delegation from Cologne that visited Indy in October, including former Deputy Mayor Angela Spizig, Volkmar Schultz and Andreas Küpper from 'Freundeskreis' in Cologne, and 1. FC Köln President Werner Spinner.

Below: Indy Eleven and 1. FC Köln now have respective fan clubs. The Indy Eleven fan club in Cologne was set up between the 'Freundeskreis' in Cologne and Brickyard Battalion. The 1. FC Köln fan club in Indy was established between the Cologne SCC and FC Köln.





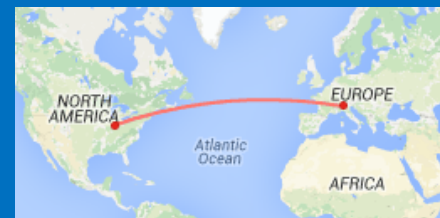
Monza, Italy

Sister City since 1994

Committee President:
Paola Santini

IND to Monza

4561 miles
7352 kilometers



Mayor Ballard's Delegation to Monza and Piran



Mayor Ballard with Mayor Scanagotti in Monza, Italy



Mayor Ballard with Mayor Bossman in Piran, Slovenia



L: Monza SCC sponsored both the Italian Film Fest as well as the "Serata italiana" organized by the Italian Heritage Society of Indiana. Here Irma Galli is with Andrea Bettini dressed up as Christopher Columbus.

B: IUPUI tourism students skype with Piran.



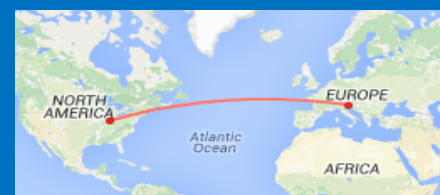
Piran, Slovenia

Sister City since 2001

Committee President:
Josef Laposa

IND to Piran

4742miles
7632 kilometers





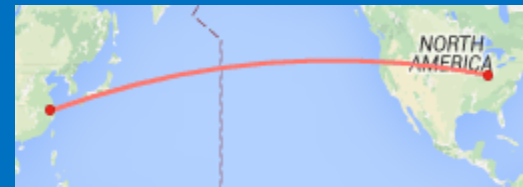
Hangzhou, China

Sister City since 2008

**Committee President:
Sherry Dong**

IND to HGH

7307 miles
11760 kilometers



Indianapolis Public Library CEO Jackie Nytes served as keynote speaker during the International Seminar on Public Libraries Development from October 21 – 23 in Hangzhou, China. She joined other presenters from China, Portugal and Japan. Her keynote address focused on a community's digital journey by illustrating how IndyPL has developed a robust collection of innovative online services. Jackie's visit coincided with the launch of a shared reading initiative, "Read, Snap, Share," during which citizens in Hangzhou and Indianapolis will read selected books and take photos of local sites represented in the books to share and discuss with each other on social media.



Hangzhou SCC delegation attends the SCI U.S. China conference in Chicago, shown here with Consul General Zhou



Hangzhou SCC delegation from Lilly and IU Health visit Mayor Ballard's office



The Hangzhou SCC participated in the 8th annual Chinese Fest at Military Park.



Campinas, Brazil

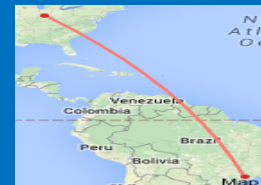
Sister City since 2009

Committee President:
Moacir Feldenheimer

IND to VCP

5015 miles

8072 kilometers



Dubbed the "Countdown to Rio", a Brazilian cultural fest was held on August 15 in recognition of the upcoming 2016 Olympic Games. The P & G Gymnastic Championships was the main event with fun events including face painting, photo opportunities, art, food, live Brazilian entertainment and interactive activities for adults and kids alike. The Campinas SCC organized an event passport and other kids activities.

Taste of Brazil

The Campinas SCC hosted a cooking class and luncheon on October 11 at the Latvian Community Center. The lunch and class was provided by Gaucho's Fire.



"What an honor to share a little bit of Brazilian culture in Indianapolis through the perspective of Dr. Nelson Cerqueira, with his talk on his latest bilingual book "A Visit to Jorge Amado," a tribute to Brazil's greatest writer of the 20th century," says former Campinas SCC President Raquel Ward. The event was held on April 14.





Hyderabad, India

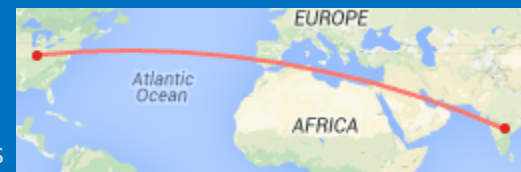
Sister City since 2010

Committee President:
Raju Chinthala

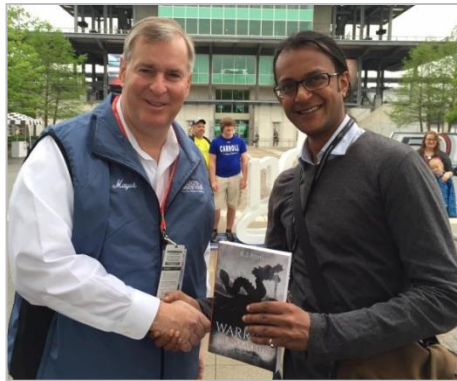
IND to HYD

8375 miles

13478 kilometers



Cora Collier, a special education teacher from Damar, Inc. of Indianapolis, traveled to Hyderabad, India for a vocational exchange



Mayor Ballard with K.S. Ram, author and speaker, at his visit during Mental Health Awareness Month



Concert of Classical Light & Folk Music



L: Mr. Bandaru Dattatreya, Minister of State in charge of Labor and Employment, Govt. of India M: Office Manager Ms Shalini Choubey IU India Gateway Office, located in Gurgaon. R: Raju Chinthala presents on panel for developed markets



Hyderabad SCC co-hosted the 6th annual India Day on August 16 with the Indian Association of Indianapolis and the Mayor's Office at Monument Circle. Mayor Ballard was presented a plaque for his outreach and contributions to the Indian community.



Meet and greet with Dr. Udit Raj, member of Parliament, India with IUPUI representatives Gil Latz and Ian McIntosh.





Northamptonshire, Cty UK

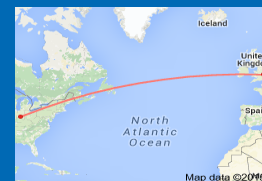
Sister City since 2009

Committee President:
Jeff Kitchen

IND to Northamptonshire

3942 miles

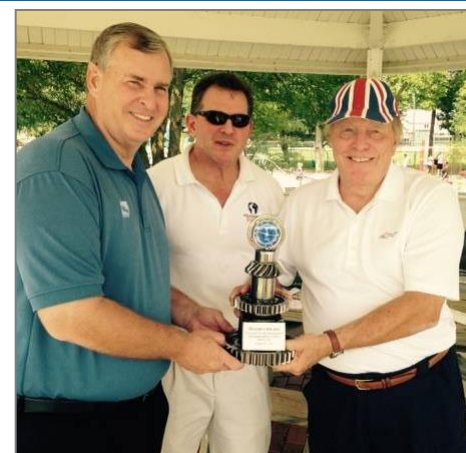
6345 kilometers



During the Indy 500 race season, we were joined by UK Chicago Consul General Stephen Bridges. NC SCC President Jeff Kitchen got to spend time with the CG at the IMS track.



Winner of the 2015 Mayor's Award was Paul Campbell of Warsaw, IN, at the 2015 Indiana British Car Union's 27th Annual Indy British Motor Days in Zionsville on August 8.



Mayor Greg Ballard, Indianapolis - Northamptonshire Co. SCC President Jeff Kitchen and Indiana British Car Union President Jon Watson.

NC SCC outing to the Dr. Who museum in Indianapolis on April 7, 2015.



Friends of Indy Sister Cities

Thank you to our individual donors

In honor of the 60th Anniversary of Sister Cities International which was established in 1956, we want to thank our donors who contributed to our \$19.56 campaign. We also thank those who made a contribution on Giving Tuesday.

Martin Baier
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Martin Bott
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Raju Chinthala
Colleen & Shawn Delaney
Molly Deuberry
Mohau Devaraja
Terri Morris Downs
William Engle
Billie Fouts
Erin Gahimer
Vidya Sagar Garg
Jane Gehlhausen
Brad Gottschlich

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Eileen Tsai
Martin Webb
Lew Weiss
Charles Wiles
Frank Wu
Hsiu Chiung Yang
Terence Yen
Gerald Zore
Indianapolis Chinese Orchestra

Thank You to our Sponsors

Indianapolis Sister Cities International is a non-profit initiative directed by Mayor Ballard's Office of International and Cultural Affairs. Indy Sister Cities depends on the generosity of corporations and organizations to provide in-kind and/or financial support. Key supporters in 2015 include:

KEY SUPPORTERS:



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Raju and Dr. Prasanna Chinthala
Care Hospice
Carnatic Music Association of Indiana
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Gaucho's Fire
Greater Indianapolis Telugu Association
Gregory Hancock Dance Theater
Grueninger Travel Group/Ambassadair
Herron High School
Heidelberg Haus
Immigrant Welcome Center
India Palace
India Association of Indianapolis
Indiana Partners of the Americas
Indiana Minority Health Care Coalition
Indianapolis Art Center
Indianapolis Bhangra Dance
Indianapolis Bollywood Beats
Indianapolis Chinese Orchestra
International Council on Education
Indianapolis Opera
Indianapolis Public Library
Indy Asian American Times
Indy Hostel
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Mistry Dance Academy
Nationalities Council
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Raghu Patibandla
Plews Shadley Racher and Braun
Riggi-Italia
Sadhana Institute for the Mentally Challenged
Bill Shah
Slovenian National Home
Sunrise Bakery
WFYI
Youth for Understanding

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to become a
sponsor

Special thanks to the International Center, the city's administrative support partner to the Indianapolis Sister Cities International program.

INTLCTR



Our Mission

The Indianapolis Sister Cities International program (ISCI) is committed to promoting Indianapolis as a global city.

ISCI raises international awareness and understanding through cultural, educational, civic, and business engagement and exchange with our international partner cities by empowering private citizens, municipal officials, as well as leaders in the community, business, and academia to serve as citizen diplomats and global advocates.

